

# JEWISH OBSERVER

## AND MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

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### JEWISH OBSERVER AND MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

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## THE WEEK

### MOSCOW AND JERUSALEM

While summer heat doldrums settled over the Arab East, the focus of world attention centred on Israel's international relations and domestic affairs.

¶ The Knesset approved the first reading of the National Service Bill for orthodox girls; The vote 59 for and 6 against. A motion to postpone the vote was lost by 65 votes to 14.

¶ Jerusalem was turned into a combination of medieval and modern as five thousand orthodox Jews, traditionally attired, converged on Knesset building.

¶ Heading the procession were twenty taxis carrying the aged Rabbis and Sages who supported the protest. Between them and the Knesset stood a line of a thousand steel-helmeted police, equipped with gas masks.

¶ The demonstrators had formed up in the Mea Shearim orthodox quarter and marched with cantors chanting prayers for the rejection of the Bill and with others blowing the Shofar (the ramshorn).

¶ There were no serious incidents and the police had more trouble with the many spectators than with the demonstrators.

¶ Inside the crowded Knesset the Bill was tabled by Labour Minister Golda Myerson after acting-Premier Sharett had refused a request from the religious parties to postpone the vote. The passage of the first reading was assured when the Mizrachi and Hapoel Hamizrachi decided to abstain from voting despite the Israel Chief Rabbi's desire that they oppose it.



*Re-establishing Relations—Gershon Avner in Sofia.*

### RELATIONS RESUMED

The first move was made early in April, soon after the Moscow reversal of the Stalin policy and the release of the Moscow "doctors."

Gershon Avner, Oxford-educated Israel Chargé d'Affaires in Sofia (who is due soon to take up the vacant post of Counsellor at the London Embassy) asked his Polish colleague in Sofia, Alexander Barchach, whether he would sound the Russians about their intentions towards Israel.

**Molotov consulted:** After the matter had been referred to Molotov in Moscow, Barchach brought Avner into direct contact with Mikhoel Bodrov, the Soviet Ambassador. By mid-May the preliminaries were concluded, and shortly afterwards Avner conveyed a formal request from Foreign Minister Sharett that the Israel Government wished to resume diplomatic relations.

Another five weeks passed before all



the forms and formulae had been agreed upon. Then on July 6 Israel Foreign Minister Sharett sent a letter to Molotov. This recounted the story of the breach, recapitulated Israel's past endeavours, and re-assured the Russians that Israel had no intentions to attack the Soviet Union or be a party to any such scheme.

**Sharett's letter:** "The Israel Government has of late been aware of a noticeable improvement in the atmosphere surrounding international affairs," Sharett wrote.

"In pursuance of its consistent policy of seeking friendship with all peace-loving nations and contributing to the best of its ability to the establishment of normal and harmonious relations between all peoples, the Government of Israel wishes at this juncture to raise the question of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel."

Sharett then recalled the cause of the breach and assured Molotov that the search for the "criminals" continues. Then comes a passage in Sharett's letter which has caused considerable international comment.

**No aggressive alliance:** "The Israel Government takes this opportunity to recall its reply of December 8, 1951," he writes, "to the Soviet note of November 21, 1951, in which it declared: 'Israel has never agreed and will not agree to support the execution or preparation of acts of aggression against the U.S.S.R. or any peace-loving state.' This policy remains unchanged."

"Having no hostile feelings towards the U.S.S.R. but, on the contrary, being anxious to establish and maintain relations of friendship and amity with it, Israel will not be party to any alliance or pact aimed at aggression against the Soviet Union."

"The Israel Government formally proposes to the Government of the U.S.S.R. that normal diplomatic relations, which were interrupted on February 12, 1953, be now re-established in the spirit of true international friendship."

**Molotov's Reply:** Molotov replied a week later, on July 15, 1953. He also recalled the past, and then wrote: "The Israel Government, according to its statement, has continued its efforts to detect the criminals with a view to their arrest and trial."

"The Soviet Government has also borne in mind the Israel Government's declaration that it would be party to no alliance or pact pursuing aggressive designs against the Soviet Union."

**Satisfactory Assurances:** "Taking into



*The fourteen youthful alleged terrorists in the courtroom at Sarafand.*

account these assurances of the Israel Government, as well as the expression of its anxiety to re-establish relations of friendship with the Soviet Union . . . the Soviet Government, for its own part, also declares a desire to have friendly relations with Israel and considers it possible to re-establish diplomatic relations with the Israel Government."

### WORLD-WIDE COMMENT

**World-wide welcome:** Thus after five and a half months Israel and the Soviet Union were again in normal relations. The event was welcomed the world over. From Moscow Reuter reported that diplomatic observers there attached importance to the resumption of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel.

They said it was an indication that Soviet foreign policy is being maintained firmly without change along the path set by the Government of Prime Minister Georgi Malenkov. The observers recalled that at the outset, the Soviet Government expressed the belief that outstanding questions between Russia and other nations could be solved by peaceful negotiations.

The fall of Beria, the former Interior Minister, also seems to have been without effect.

**Washington and London:** In Washington, United States officials said that Russia's resumption of relations with Israel seemed to indicate the Soviet regime was not going to reverse its peaceful overtures. They emphasised that

this step had occurred since the purging of Beria. It could thus be added to the list of Moscow "peace feelers" since the death of Stalin.

Whitehall also informally welcomed this development on the eve of the Foreign Affairs debate in the Commons. Neither Washington nor London seemed to attach undue importance to the assurances in Sharett's letter. They would in no way affect Western relations with Israel, it was said.

**No "sell out":** There were however indications that British and American press correspondents in Israel read rather more into Israel's undertaking. To remove any misunderstanding, the Israel Foreign Ministry instructed on Monday its envoys in London, Washington and Paris to assure the three Governments that the resumption of relations with the Soviet Union means no change in the foreign policy of the Jewish State.

Official circles are perturbed by first reactions from some quarters which have termed Israel's stated unwillingness to participate in any alliances against the Soviet Union as a "sell out." The Foreign Ministry emphasises that the statement meant no more than it said.

**Enquiries in Jerusalem:** The first foreign representative to seek further information from the Foreign Office was the Argentine Minister. Representatives of other foreign powers, including Western nations, who asked the Foreign Ministry's liaison office in Tel Aviv for more information were advised to approach the Foreign Office in Jerusalem.



## ORTHODOX CAMPAIGN MISLEADING PROPAGANDA

The problem of National Service for religious girls has been one of the most explosive subjects the Knesset has had to deal with in the past, reports *Our Jerusalem Correspondent, David Kimche*.

Now the question has once more come to the fore with the approval of the National Service Bill by the Cabinet last week.

This provides that those girls seeking exemption from the Army on religious grounds will be conscripted into national service which, however, will be under the civilian Ministry of Labour, and not under military jurisdiction.

The service, which will be for a period of two years, will include work in orthodox agricultural settlements, immigrant camps, Ma'abarot, defence projects, hospitals and other institutions approved by the Government. Every effort will be made to enable the girls to return home in the evenings.

**Privileged orthodox:** The Bill aims at a compromise settlement between the demands for complete exemption made by the Rabbis, and the arguments of those who pointed to the inequality existing in the present situation whereby non-religious girls serve two years in the armed forces while religious girls are exempt from all national service.

While the Cabinet ministers of *Hapoel Hamizrachi* agreed to the proposed compromise, the extreme orthodox, led by the two Agudist parties, voiced their determined opposition to the Bill.

Protest meetings were organized, in which the Rabbis warned tearful parents of the dreadful fate awaiting their daughters if they were conscripted, and leaflets were circulated in the orthodox quarters of Jerusalem exhorting the girls to go to prison rather than agree to National Service.

**Rabbis mislead mothers:** No effort was made to explain the contents of the compromise Bill to the wrathful mothers of Mea Shearim, who imagined National Service to be the worst of all evils which could befall their daughters.

Two days after the Bill was approved, the wrath of the ultra-orthodox women of Mea Shearim erupted; a large crowd of middle-aged mothers, in a state of near-hysteria, stormed the Knesset building.

**Perplexed Police:** The Police, who were loth to use force against the women, were hard-put to restore order in the area, and the demonstration—unique in annals of the country—was dispersed only by jets of water from a fire-engine



Poale Agudist Deputy-Speaker, Mintz—  
"determined opposition."

called to help the perplexed police. Twelve women and two men were arrested, but were released some hours later.

The Rabbis of the ultra-orthodox section, in the meantime, have announced their continued opposition to the Bill. This opposition springs from the fear that the girls, who at present live a completely secluded life in the ghetto-like quarters of Mea Shearim and other ultra-orthodox quarters would quickly become "tainted" by contact with the secular world (which, incidentally, includes the orthodox settlements and institutions of *Hapoel Hamizrachi*, and would cause them to abandon the ultra-orthodox values which have been so laboriously instilled in them for so long.

**Rabbi Herzog intervenes:** Over the week-end Chief Rabbi Herzog has instructed the Mizrahi Knesset members to vote against the National Service Bill. Rabbi Herzog's remarks were made to a delegation of the Mizrahi Party which visited him at his home in Jerusalem. An order such as this from the Chief Rabbi is also binding on *Hapoel Hamizrachi*, reports the *Jerusalem Post*.

*Hapoel Hamizrachi* circles explained to a representative of the paper that in earlier talks with the Chief Rabbi, they had been led to understand that they could vote as they wished. The majority of the Party is believed to favour either abstention or voting for the Bill. Mapai circles commenting on this said that any Coalition party voting against the Bill would have to resign from the Government.

**Resisting Pressure:** Commenting on Rabbi Herzog's intervention the *Jerusalem Post* wrote on Monday:

"When the late Chief Rabbi of Palestine, the revered Rabbi Kook, was confronted with the unreasonable demands of the ultra-orthodox in this country he had the courage and self-confidence to resist their pressures.

"In this way he achieved two great positive ends. He created in the minds of the whole Yishuv a deep and abiding sense of respect for the high spiritual office which he held and he also prevented a religious struggle in the Yishuv.

"Till recently this tradition was carried on by his successor, the present Chief Rabbi of Israel, and this fact makes his apparent surrender to pressure from the fanatical sects in the matter of compulsory national service for girls a matter for wonder and regret."

**Chief Rabbi misled:** "The outcome of the latest moves in this rather murky political game set afoot by the Neturei Karta and the Agudat Yisrael can only be disastrous for Judaism. It is respectfully urged that the Chief Rabbi has been misled into supporting them.

"While his decision bears the seal of his Rabbinic authority it has nevertheless to be pointed out that there is no Papal infallibility in Israel, and that many students of the Torah feel that his decision may be subject to grave doubt.

"The supporting opinion of the "Council of Sages" is vitiated by the misrepresentations to which that body has openly subscribed, while its political associations bring its impartiality into question.

"The Chief Rabbi must think again, for Judaism's destined role in Israel may depend on his further reflection. It may well be driven into a position of insignificance by a failure to recognise the elementary requirements of a modern society."

## U.K. REACTION

**Vox Populi:** Some 300 out of London's 280,000 Jews\* demonstrated outside the Israeli Embassy in Manchester Square on Wednesday against the conscription of religious girls in Israel. Over half of the demonstrators consisted of youngsters from various Jewish religious

\*In Tel Aviv 4,000 Jews out of a local population of 400,000 demonstrated against the bill.



schools and colleges in North and East London; they had been called out by the Agudist Youth Movement.

While a delegation of the "European Rabbinical Council" led by Mr. H. Goodman, and including Rabbi Dr. Schonfeld (of the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations) was being seen by the Israeli Ambassador, the youngsters passed the time by shouting slogans, such as "Hands off Our Women," and "Down with Ben-Gurion." Placards were much in evidence.

**Police Clear Steps:** Towards the end, the more enthusiastic rushed up the steps of the Embassy. They were intercepted and calmed by their cooler companions and told to sing religious songs instead. The steps of the Embassy were afterwards cleared by three policemen (no police protection had been sought by the Embassy).

Mr. H. Goodman said afterwards that he had told the Israel Ambassador that Ben-Gurion's actions would create a cleavage between Israel and Orthodox Jewry. The Ambassador undertook to convey the views of the delegation.

**Chief Rabbi's Attitude:** A spokesman of the Chief Rabbi's office said on Wednesday that in all religious matters in Israel he supported the attitude of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. Dr. Brodie was not associated with, nor represented at, the demonstration before the Israel Embassy in Manchester Square on Wednesday, the spokesman added.

**Board of Deputies:** An emergency meeting of the Israel Committee of the Board of Deputies was held on Tuesday evening to consider the question of the National Service Bill. It was agreed to

send a deputation to see the Israel Ambassador and to discuss with him the nature of the Bill. The delegation will consist of Messrs. Teff, Janner, Strauss, Bornstein and Bakstansky.

From this brief statement issued after the meeting of the Committee, it would appear that contrary to demands made by a minority at the meeting of the Board of Deputies on Sunday, no telegram of protest is to be sent to Israel and no protest will be made in London. It seems that the Committee considers its function to be to seek in the first place further elucidation of the Bill.

## JERUSALEM: MORE PROTESTS

**Arab protest:** Representatives of Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen have submitted identical protests on the transfer of the Israel Foreign Ministry to Jerusalem, to the U.N. Secretary-General. They have asked that their protests be circulated to all U.N. member nations.

In their Note they stated that the Arab Governments consider Israel's action the "potent cause in disturbing the Middle East region and shaking it to its foundations."

"While this is already well-known to all United Nations members, it will be impossible not to say that this is yet another proof of the Israel Government's intention to reject all possibilities for pacification of the region of the Middle East both by committing aggression against its neighbours and by breaching the decisions of the United Nations."

**Turkish protest:** Israel's decision to transfer its Foreign Ministry to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv has caused an unfavourable reaction in Turkey, which is a member of the three-nation United Nations' Palestine Conciliation Commission, the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency* reported from Istanbul. Turkish political circles and the local press have expressed anxiety over the move, and fear that the transfer of the Foreign Ministry may endanger whatever hopes exist for a peaceful solution of the Palestine problem.

Expressing the official view on this issue, the pro-Government newspaper *Milliyet* said that the question of Jerusalem was an international one and was not merely of concern to Jews and Arabs.

"At the moment when even the Big Powers are seeking to improve their relations with the Islamic world," the paper said, "the fact that Israel has not given the slightest importance to that force is surely a political error. This action will not be approved by any nation wishing the progress of a peaceful Israel."

**France protests:** Rather belatedly it was announced in Paris on Tuesday that the French Ambassador in Israel, M. Pierre Gilbert, is to protest to the Israeli Government against the transfer of the Israel Foreign Ministry to Jerusalem.

## U.S. ARMS FOR THREE ARAB STATES

What looked like an officially inspired report from Jerusalem last weekend, indicated that though details of the State Department's plan regarding military aid to the Middle East were not yet officially known, there were already certain indications of the form which this aid will take.

The total military aid allocated is \$50 million for Israel, Syria, Iraq and Pakistan; it seems, said the Jerusalem report, that the latter three countries are to get the major share.

Egypt is not included in the scheme because of Britain's strong opposition. France does not seem favourably inclined to include Syria since this might mean a further weakening of French interests in that country.

The participation of Iraq, however, makes it difficult for the French to object to the U.S. sending arms to Syria and the inclusion of Syria makes it difficult for Britain to object to Iraq being equipped with American arms, the report said.



Israel Foreign Ministry's Move to Jerusalem.





Surveying the economic situation: David Horowitz with the late Eliezer Kaplan—  
"Complete control needed."

## DEVALUATION AND DISMISSALS

### TWO IMPORTANT REPORTS

It was a weekend of important economics and economies for Israel. Two reports were made public to impress the need for both on the governing and the country.

The devaluation of Israel's currency and the abolition of the present system of multiple exchange rates were among the fiscal reforms advocated by a committee of nine experts appointed by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion to investigate the possibility of decontrolling foreign currency.

On the issue of currency controls the committee was divided, according to a report made public in Jerusalem last weekend. A majority of six, headed by the chairman, David Horowitz, Governor-designate of the State Bank, advocated the maintenance of complete control while a minority of three proposed decontrol in part.

**Four shillings a pound:** The present situation is that all foreign currency accruing to Israeli residents must be exchanged officially and all acquisitions of foreign exchange require Government permit. The three existing official rates of exchange are £.357, £.720 and £1 Israeli for a dollar, but as a result of a system of premiums, the actual basis for most transactions is the rate of £1.8 Israeli for a dollar—five Israel pounds to one pound sterling.

The Government has already stated that it plans to stabilise the pound at this rate.

Now the committee majority recommends that the rate of I£5 for one pound

sterling should become the one and only official rate.

They add that the Israeli pound was really worth more but that this rate was advisable in view of the unsatisfactory balance of payments, the need to encourage exports and the import of capital, and to discourage the imports of consumer goods.

**Minority alternative:** The minority proposed that a controlled rate of one and a half Israel pounds for a dollar should apply only to funds accruing directly to the Government, such as United States grants and reparations

payments from West Germany. Out of these funds, it urged, the Government should buy essential commodities such as basic foodstuffs and fuel.

Whatever sum remains, as well as the foreign currency accruing to exporters, exchanged by tourists or coming from other sources, should be sold at the "free market" rate to persons authorised by the Government to acquire foreign currency.

**Capital flight feared:** The majority objected to the plan for decontrol in part, holding that the State treasury had to judge what portions of foreign currency earnings should be directed to essential imports, basic investments, the reserve fund or payment of foreign debts. A flight of capital was also feared.

The majority also reasoned that the "free rate" would not be at a realistic level, since the supply of dollars under the minority's plan would be limited only to a fraction of the State's foreign currency income. Hence, there was a danger that partial decontrol would cause prices and wages to rise.

**Cabinet support for majority?:** The Cabinet will now study the committee's reports and there is little doubt that it will go along with the majority's views on the question of continued foreign currency control. But there may be some opposition in the Cabinet to the proposed devaluation and the abolition of multiple exchange rates.

(Continued over)

JON KIMCHE

## Seven Fallen Pillars

"He had not long to wait for the vindication of his theses. . . . The pillars, cracked before, had crumbled and fallen with a vengeance . . . Mr. Kimche has added more than a hundred pages to the book. . . . They serve their purpose in putting a roof on the structure left incomplete in 1950."

—From an Editorial in the MANCHESTER GUARDIAN

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**Ha'aretz proposal:** Commenting on the report of the foreign currency commission, *Ha'aretz* (Independent) says that we knew even before its publication that two points of view existed and the report has changed nothing in this respect. But it was not therefore in vain.

By a general consensus of opinion the disinflationary policy should be continued; hidden Government subsidies for vital imports should be replaced (if necessary, by open subsidies), and all members of the commission agreed that the main economic evil is the lack of planning and co-ordination of foreign currency income.

*Ha'aretz* proposes that the final decision should not be left to the Government. "If the experts have not been able to reach a unanimous decision, the Government, which does not consist of economic experts, will be even less able to do so." The paper believes that the members of the commission should be given more time and the Government meanwhile should carry out the recommendations of the majority which, though unsatisfactory, are still a step forward.

### 3,000 DISMISSALS

One day before the "Royal Commission" on foreign exchange, the Committee appointed by the Cabinet in October 1952, to recommend economies and increased efficiency in the Civil Service made public its report.

It proposed the dismissal of 3,227 civil servants, of whom 2,843 have already been discharged. These will save the Treasury about £7-8 million a year.

Presenting the Committee's final report to the Press in Jerusalem yesterday, the chairman, Mr. Pinhas Lavon, Minister without Portfolio, said that the end of the Committee's work does not mean that concern for more efficiency and further economics is no longer required.

**Jewish Agency as well:** The Minister indicated that the work of his Committee would not be really useful if it remained limited to Civil Service. Similar efficiency committees should be established in Municipalities, in the Jewish Agency and any other institution, whose budget is maintained by public funds.

Mr. Lavon emphasised that, in his opinion, the main importance of his Committee's activity does not lie in the number of officials dismissed or the amount of money saved but in making it clear to both public and civil servants that an end has come to the waste and misuse of the public's time and money.

**Cars and Phones:** The Committee found that 850 civil servants have private phones in their homes, paid for by the Government. This figure was considered excessive, and it was recommended that about 300 of these phones should no longer be operated at Government cost.

The number of civil servants receiving special allowances totalled 550, and the Government had paid approximately



Lavon—"misuse of the public's time and money."

£800,000 for six million miles of travel "on official business." The Committee decided to reduce by 220 the number of officials qualifying for a special allowance and to limit to 2½ million the total mileage for which payment would be made.

**Exempted Ministries:** The efficiency Committee examined 11 of the 16 Ministries. It did not operate in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as the Government Secretary was especially appointed by the Cabinet to put forward proposals on the efficiency of the Foreign Service.

Neither did the Committee inspect the Ministry of Defence, excluding its administrative departments, as in its other departments the survey was carried out by Defence Minister Ben-Gurion himself.

No survey was made in the Ministry of Police and Ministry of Justice as it was evident in advance that there is no possibility of curtailing the number of employees in those Ministries.

The Ministry which remains uninspected is that for Religious Affairs, as it was felt that "it is impossible to approach this Ministry on the rules of efficiency."

**Unified broadcasting:** The report gives a detailed picture of the work done by the Committee in each Ministry inspected. It found that "it is possible to unify the Broadcasting Services in the State as it had suggested; to combine the Army broadcasting service and Kol Yisrael, and to unify the music departments and the foreign language broadcasts of Kol Yisrael and Kol Zion Lagola.

"Negotiations with the Jewish Agency have started on this problem but with no practical results thus far."

## JEWISH OBSERVER & MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

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# AUSTRIA

## NEGOTIATIONS BACKGROUND

By Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld

From June 17th to July 15th negotiations took place in Vienna between representatives of the International Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria and the Austrian Government. They proved somewhat difficult, for the Austrian Government denied legal responsibility for the results of persecution.

In their view Austria did not exist from 1938 to 1945. All measures of persecution were carried out by Germany and not by Austria and the loot was acquired by and went to Germany. Austria could therefore not be held responsible for measures which she did not enact and from which she reaped no benefit.

**Citizen and State:** The Jewish representatives did not deny these facts, but pointed out that the relation between a Government and its nationals is reciprocal: the national has to fulfil his obligations as a citizen and, in return, the government has to protect him.

If a State, such as Austria, was unable, through force of circumstances, to protect a certain group of its nationals against persecution by an Occupying Power, its government was at least obliged to pay compensation to the members of the group it could not protect, if this group suffered greater harm than the majority of the population after the end of the Occupation.

★

**"No Discrimination":** A State based on law and justice should not discriminate against certain victims and should act according to the principle of material equality.

Moreover, many measures discriminating against former Austrians living abroad and those who had acquired another nationality were enacted by Austrian post-war legislation. Victims of Nazi oppression, for instance, who were deprived of liberty, are excluded from the benefits of the law providing compensation if they are no longer Austrian nationals. Similarly, Jewish public servants who were forced to leave Austria do not get the compensation provided by Austrian law if they live abroad.

From the beginning it appeared that the Austrian Government was willing to reach a settlement provided that their basic approach of not being held respon-

sible for persecutory measures was appreciated and the difficult financial situation of Austria taken into account.

**Jewish Claims Listed:** The Jewish delegates had prepared a list of claims dealing with the amendment of laws discriminating against former Austrians abroad; for instance, pensions to employees by the General Pensions Fund, pensions to public servants, compensation for deprivation of liberty, payment of old age pensions to members of the free professions, to independent merchants, and other similar claims; compensation up to a certain limit for furniture, for the loss of savings in every form, and for other valuables; the payment of a lump sum for Jewish heirless and unclaimed assets to the International Committee for the rehabilitation of Jews inside and outside Austria.

★

**Jewish Slave-Labour:** Other claims, such as repayment of flight taxes and levies were not put forward. They were reserved for the time when Austria and Germany discuss their reciprocal claims against each other, since the so-called German undertakings in Austria which are now partly under Austrian trusteeship were mainly built up with the help of large sums extorted from the Jews and by Jewish slave-labour.

**Fifty-Fifty Success:** The results of the negotiations were neither completely satisfactory nor completely unsatisfactory. It appears that the Austrian Government is prepared to recognise publicly the principle of non-discrimination against former Austrian Jews living abroad.

On the basis of this recognition the benefits of past and future laws granted to political, racial or religious victims in Austria will therefore be available to them.

In fact, the Austrian Parliament, at the end of the negotiations, already enacted two laws by which compensation for deprivation of liberty will be paid to former Austrians living abroad and to those who acquired another nationality. Compensation will also be paid to public servants living abroad for damage suffered between 1938 and December 31, 1945.

★

**Resumption in September:** As to compensation for individual claims, particularly for loss of furniture and savings in



every form, the Austrian Government thought that on the basis of the information before them, they could not at present reach a definite conclusion as to the expenditure involved. Further enquiries on this subject should be made during the summer, so that early in September the negotiations can be taken up again.

★

**Differences on Heirless Assets:** In the matter of the heirless property there was a vast difference of opinion on the definition of heirless property defended by the delegation, and on that defended by the Austrian Government.

While the Austrian Government wanted to restrict heirless assets to those which could be restituted (if they were not heirless) under present Austrian legislation, the Jewish delegation included in the definition of heirless property also such assets which could not be restituted, particularly those mobile assets which belonged to the 60,000 Austrian Jews who were deported and killed (out of a pre-war population of about 190,000).

Again, while the Austrian Government wanted to restrict the Jewish claim only to traceable property, the Jewish delegation declared that the property of the 60,000 murdered Jews could not be traced by them and that this must be taken into account in fixing the figure to be paid to the Committee for Jewish rehabilitation.

Discussions on this point were not broken off either; the Austrian Government agreed that negotiations on it should also be continued in the early autumn.



# COMMENT

## NATIONAL SERVICE IN ISRAEL

Our Jerusalem Correspondent reports on another page the disturbing character which the propaganda encouraged by a small minority of rabbis has assumed. They have roused the anxiety and fears of orthodox parents without making the slightest attempt to explain the actual situation. For the Israel Government, basing itself on the agreement between the parties which establish the present Coalition Government and to which the orthodox *Hapoel Hamizrachi* appended its signature, has done virtually everything to meet the legitimate desires of the orthodox community. No one questions that the Government must strike a fair balance between the needs of security and the obligation of citizenship—orthodox and unorthodox alike. This it has now done.

At first when conscription was originally introduced, girls who claimed to be orthodox were given total exemption from National Service, while those who made no such claim had to serve two years in the armed forces. This was an important privilege which could be carried out only so long as it was not abused. But the Government soon found that this loophole was used as an excuse to escape military service and that those who so wished to forgo their obligation to the State were aided and abetted by the rabbis of the Ultra-Orthodox Party.

This situation became intolerable. It was unfair on the thousands who willingly and fully fulfilled their obligations that others should escape this service merely on the pretext of orthodoxy. The Government therefore with the approval and support of the Orthodox *Hapoel Hamizrachi* decided to take the necessary action. There was only one possible solution. There would be no longer any exceptions on grounds of orthodoxy, but the special requirements of the orthodox groups would be met in the most appropriate manner.

The orthodox groups objected to the girls wearing uniform. The Government agreed that they should wear civilian clothes and furthermore that they should register and come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labour and not under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defence and the Army.

The orthodox groups objected to the girls serving away from home. The Government also met this demand to the fullest possible extent. The girls would be required primarily for hospital service—there is a desperate shortage of nurses at present—for duties in immigrant camps and for such other tasks as would enable them to go home every evening.

Few governments of the world today would have shown such scruple in dealing with the demands of a

minority. The Israel Government has shown that whether or not it agrees with the views of the orthodox groups it is prepared to respect them within the framework of its overall task.

In return the Israel Government is entitled to ask of those groups inside and outside Israel that they should not abuse their position, that they should not mix up politics and religion and that they should show that same sense of responsibility for the safety and security of the newly established country as do the great majority of the people of Israel.

## FORMAL OR FRIENDLY ?

Israel and the Soviet Union have resumed their formal diplomatic relations, after an interregnum of five months, marked by the death of Stalin, the assumption of power by Malenkov and Beria, the switch of Soviet policy, the rumblings in the satellite states, and the dismissal and disgrace of Beria and his friends. An unhappy chapter in Israel's international connections has thus been closed.

Does this mean that we can treat "the incident" as if it had never happened? Hardly. Much else has changed—not only Soviet policies. The Soviet breach with Israel had, for one thing, acted as a brake on all efforts to reach an Arab-Israel settlement. It encouraged the intransigents and the extremists in the Arab world. It emphasised Israel's isolation. It facilitated the parading of the Russian bogey in Washington where there was a tendency to equate Russian hostility to Israel with Soviet support for the Arabs. It enabled the ex-Mufti to make the most of his position and propaganda.

All these developments will not be simply reversed by the normalising of Soviet-Israel relations. At least the Russians think so. They seem to have included a condition which will make the difference between formal and friendly relations with Israel. They have sought a fresh undertaking from the Israel Government—as indeed they had from all Middle East Governments—that Israel would not participate in any alliance or pact pursuing aggressive aims against the Soviet Union.

The Israel Foreign Office sees no unduly restrictive considerations in this restatement of an earlier undertaking; the same attitude is taken also by the Western Foreign Offices. They were not distressed when the Russians sent their Notes to Israel and the Arab States in 1951; they consider this latest expression of Russian diplomacy as being no more than routine and not calling for a search for deeper meaning.

Thus this diplomatic *detente* should help to ease at least one of the existing tensions in the Middle East, and remove the false hopefulness of those Arab leaders who believed they could make capital out of Israel's estrangement from the Soviet Union.



# IN THE NEWS

## CAIRO'S CHIEF RABBI

I have had an interesting account from Washington of the meeting between Foster Dulles and Chief Rabbi Nahum during Dulles's visit to Cairo last May. Nothing was said of the meeting at the time, but it made a great impression on the Secretary of State.

The aged, blind Chief Rabbi had been asked by Dulles to tell him frankly what were the real conditions of the Jews in Egypt. Rabbi Nahum replied that on paper and in theory there was no discrimination against Jews.

In practice, however, Jews who applied for an exit visa or even for a renewal of their passport, found that they were directed to a special office and that their application was subject to a long enquiry. It took an Egyptian Jew two months to get his visa or passport back, whereas an Egyptian would get it in a matter of two or three days. The Chief Rabbi also told Dulles that since 1948 no Jews living in Egypt have been able to obtain their naturalization under the Nationality Law. For the rest the Chief Rabbi expressed his appreciation of the courteous treatment he had received from the new regime.

## ABDEL NASSER'S PROMISE

After this meeting Dulles went to Colonel Abdul Nasser and asked about these discriminations. Nasser replied he would look into them at once. He subsequently visited the Chief Rabbi and promised him that he would immediately take administrative action to stop this discrimination against Jews. He undertook that at least 200 applications for Egyptian nationality by Jews would be dealt with immediately.

But so far, I hear there has been no noticeable change in the situation.

## NEGUIB'S OWN PAPER

Next month the new regime in Egypt will start its own daily newspaper. The army weekly *Al Tahrir* is to take over the press and offices of a daily paper which once was the mainstay of Nokrashy and his party—*El Assas*. This development is viewed with some concern by some of the older papers, particularly by the Amin brothers, who have lately been losing ground with their new daily *El Ahbar*. The other one-time party journals are also finding life increasingly difficult. Only the ex-Wafdist *Al Misri* manages to keep going by its unending supply of sensations for

its readers. It has been so successful in this policy that the staid *Manchester-Guardian*-like *Al Ahram* has now been compelled by its competition to depart from its straight reporting and to indulge in increasing sensationalism to keep its own position as the foremost Arabic daily newspaper.



Mrs. Rachel Shazar—Stockholm to Surrey.

## PIONEER WOMAN

"Israel should attend international conferences not only for their intrinsic value but also as a means towards widening her international contacts," Mrs. Rachel Shazar, leader of the *Pioneer Women* Organisation told me last week. She herself is a living example of this policy: when we met she had just returned from representing the Mapai Women's Section at the Stockholm International Socialist Women's Congress and was en route for the International Women's Socialist School at the Beatrice Webb House in Surrey.

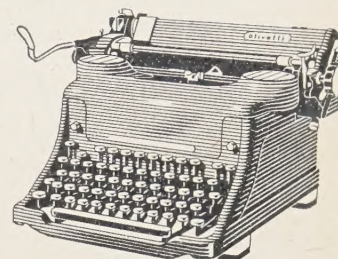
At Stockholm, Mrs. Shazar told me, she was not only honoured by election to one of the Congress's Vice-Presidencies but was also invited to report on the position of women in Israel's agricultural life. The subject aroused great interest, I was told.

Other Jewish women present included eighty-three year old Angelica Balabanova (Italy), one of the very few old-guard Bolsheviks still alive, Herta Gottelf (Western Germany) and Marianna Pollack (Austria).

(Continued over)

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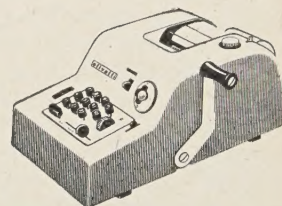
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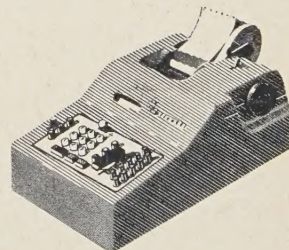
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## GIRL CONSCRIPTS

Mrs. Shazar, homely and motherly, I found rather hard to envisage as the founder of *Pioneer Women*. Yet her record speaks for itself. Born in Russia, and a graduate in history and literature of the University of St. Petersburg, she settled in Palestine forty-one years ago. She spent a year teaching and a further five years on a kibbutz. Since 1921, when she founded *Pioneer Women*, her main interest has been the Movement's growth.

In the midst of a crowded life, Mrs. Shazar has also found time to write a volume devoted to modern Hebrew literature, which received the Brenner Prize, one of Israel's highest literary awards.

I asked Mrs. Shazar for her views on the conscription of women. The reply was concise: if 4,000 Jewish girls in Israel could be recruited for the British A.T.S., surely there could be no objection to service in the Israel Army.

## ADVISING ISRAELI FILM-MAKERS

The first all-Israeli film scheduled for making is a story of the Arab-Israel war, and English director Thorold Dickinson flew to Israel last week to advise on its production.

Dickinson is recognised as one of the best creative minds in British films. His productions are marked by a strong individual style and intelligent script-writing. His film of Africa, *Men of Two Worlds*, and the richly-textured *Queen of Spades*, starring Edith Evans, were memorable; but I recall being present at a private showing of one Dickinson film that was never released.

It was his version of *Gaslight*, a period drama that beautifully evoked the atmosphere of Edwardian London with its fog, its hansoms and its roistering music-halls. But Hollywood had decided to make a movie from the same book—*Hangover Square*, I think it was called—and Dickinson's *Gaslight* was bought up and suppressed.

## TWENTY YEARS TO CROSS ATLANTIC

Latest book in American-Jewish literature is a vast anthology, "Yisroel." Does the name sound familiar? It should do, for you and I first encountered "Yisroel" when it was published in London just over twenty years ago. News still travels slowly, it seems.

The anthology has now come under the critical eye of Irving Howe, whom some over here know for his biographies of Faulkner and Sherwood Anderson. Mr. Howe takes editor Joseph Leftwich to task over a number of



Thorold Dickinson—a film of the Arab-Israel war.

points—one or two, I am afraid, quite fatuous.

There can, for example, scarcely be a sadder specimen of literary snobbery than the following:

"Mr. Leftwich has, of course, included such excellent Jewish writers as Sholom Aleichem, Peretz, Kafka, Babel, and Bialik, but he has also found room for an astonishing number of mediocre figures whose only point in common is their Jewish birth: once over-rated but now justly neglected novelists like Feuchtwanger, Golding, Stefan Zweig; plodding third-raters like Thyra Samter Winslow, W. L. George, Sarah Gertrude Millin; and mere hacks like G. B. Stern, Edna Ferber, and Vicki Baum."

An omnibus, after all, is not a golden carriage. It is a democratic form of transport in which the noble and plebeian might well find themselves rubbing shoulders if they are travelling in the same direction. And passengers like Feuchtwanger, Golding and Stefan Zweig would not even disgrace Mr. Howe's company. As for "third-raters" like Sarah Gertrude Millin, and "mere hacks" like G. B. Stern, etc., it would be nice to have more of them. After all, what are we stuck with at the moment?

*Hamazkir writes:*

## MR. HILAIRE BELLOC

I met Mr. Hilaire Belloc, who died last week, only once, over forty years ago. He was then the Literary Editor of the *Morning Post*, and I owed the introduction to the late Laurie Magnus, who did not let his anti-Zionism prevent him from doing a good turn to a fellow-journalist who was a Zionist. The result

of the introduction was that I became the regular reviewer of books of Jewish interest for the now defunct Conservative daily, and when I went to live in Cologne I acted as its foreign correspondent. In those far-off days Mr. Belloc was Liberal M.P. for South Salford, but after the First World War he became a reactionary.

In 1922 he published a book entitled *The Jews*, which created something of a sensation. On the title page were the Hebrew words *Shalom le-Yisrael*, and the book was dedicated to the author's lady secretary, who was described as "the best and most intimate of our Jewish friends". But these marks of amity failed to conceal the fact that the work was undoubtedly of a pronounced anti-Semitic character. Mr. Belloc's main thesis was that the Jews were "an alien body within the society they inhabit", and as an alien body in any organism "was disposed of by elimination or segregation", and elimination in the case of the Jews in any form would be "abominable or impossible", they should be subjected to segregation. Mr. Belloc described Bolshevism as "a Jewish movement" and attacked the appointment of Sir Herbert Samuel as the first High Commissioner in Palestine. A third edition of his book appeared in 1937, and a new introductory chapter contained a farrago of misstatements, misrepresentations, and prejudices.

## THE DAICHES BROTHERS

The impromptu conversation between Dr. David Daiches and Mr. Lionel Daiches, to which I listened on the wireless the other evening, not only provided a quarter of an hour's stimulating entertainment but brought to the notice of the general public the intellectual originality of these two brothers. I first met them many years ago, when they were boys, in the home of their father, the late Dr. Salis Daiches, who was for many years the Rabbi of the Jewish community in Edinburgh.

Dr. David Daiches, who is at present Lecturer in English at the University of Cambridge, has had a very distinguished career. He was formerly a Fellow of Balliol College, has held Professorships at the Cornell and Chicago Universities, and was on the staff of the British Embassy in Washington during the late war. He is the author of several scholarly and critical works on literary subjects. His brother Lionel, who lives in Edinburgh, is an eminent member of the Scottish bar and is known as an ardent Scottish patriot.



## MOSCOW, JERUSALEM AND GENEVA

I have tried to find a provocative opening for this article but I found myself settling for a sentence which sounds like a platitude. Unfortunately, for once, it is no platitude, but the grim truth: when the Assembly of the World Jewish Congress meets in Geneva in ten days time it will find the world, and with it the Jewish world, hesitating uncertainly at the parting of the ways. It will depend largely on the leadership of the Assembly whether it will be turned into a "Talkers' Bank Holiday" or whether it will crystallise World Jewish opinion on the most fundamental political question which faces organised Jewry in and out of Israel.



The question can be formulated by means of these two maxims of Jewish history.

I. The great crises and disasters of Jewish history have always come in times when the dominant social system of the time was in a state of disintegration or in open conflict with the claims of a challenging new system: the Crusades, the expulsion from Spain, the pogroms of the declining Tsarist Empire, the German "Final Solution," are but a few examples.

II. The great opportunities of Jewish history have sprung from the periods of harmony when the ruling social order was not threatened and in a state of progress, or during periods when the rival social systems in Society lived in a state of peaceful co-existence. This applied to the flowering periods of Jewish history under Arab rule after the bourgeois revolution of the ninth century, during the hey-day in Spain and later in Poland and during the days of advancing capitalism a century ago. It recurred briefly under very special circumstances in 1947.



The World Jewish Congress Assembly will meet at a moment when the Western world is divided and uncertain in deciding whether we are about to enter a particularly difficult period of East-West conflict or whether a new era of East-West good neighbourly "co-existence" has already begun. In providing a satisfactory answer to this uncertainty lies perhaps the most important task of the Assembly.

Jewish opinion about this divided broadly along similar lines as the non-Jewish world. American Jewish organisations echo as a rule the views expressed by the spokesmen for the Washington

Administration. British Jews tend to accept the more cautious and conciliatory approach exemplified by the recent policy of the Churchill Government.



Israeli guidance on this matter was unfortunately of no great help to World Jewry since the while question of assessing Soviet policy had become involved in bitter, partisan and subjective Israeli party politics which bear little relation to the significant developments in Eastern Europe. On this issue there came neither learning nor guidance from Zion. This gap is all the more regrettable because while the views of the Jews in the Western World will be fully heard at the Assembly there will be no authoritative voice from Eastern Europe to balance these opinions; the views of a quarter of World Jewry will thus remain muted; their case might well go by default.

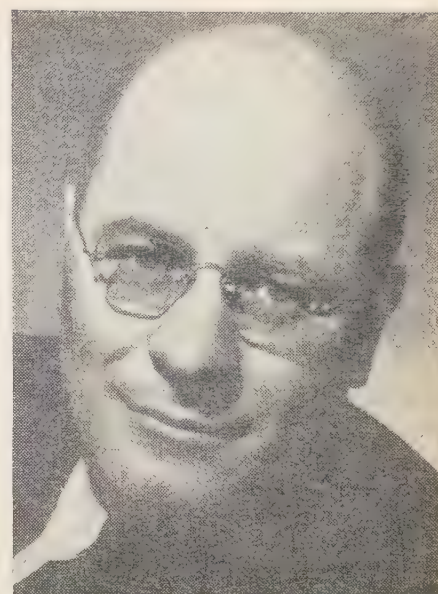
It is fortunate therefore that just at this moment we should have before us Isaac Deutscher's "*Russia after Stalin*," (Hamish Hamilton, 12/6) the considered analysis by an outstanding authority on Eastern Europe which should be studied by every delegate to the Assembly and by everyone who wishes to express an opinion on the ultimate road taken by the delegates at the Assembly. It may well fill the gap created by the missing quarter of World Jewry.



Deutscher's account of the real situation in Russia has been criticised by some for being too Marxist, by others for being too optimistic about the future. Neither criticism is really valid. For what Deutscher has done is to give an account of the Stalinist epoch in its shifting and changing social setting; to make it comprehensible to the Western reader he has drawn heavily on historic parallels and problems which must strike a responsive chord in anyone concerned with Israel's problems today.

(For, quite apart from this first sharp delineation of the course and consequences of Stalinism in terms of historical assessment and not in the language of propaganda and partisan politics, the extraordinary aspect of this study is the likeness, in microscopic comparison, of many of Israel's major problems to those which faced Lenin and Stalin.)

To return to the central issue posed by Deutscher; it is that the changing conditions inside the Soviet Union dictate on Stalin's successors a policy of



*Deutscher—spokesman for the missing quarter?*

peaceful co-existence with the Western world.

The prevailing American view may be different; it may even be right. But the Assembly must consider all the available evidence on its merits. For the consequences of a rash or partisan decision could be fateful, not only to the Jews in Eastern Europe but also to Israel's position in the Middle East.

The implications on World Jewry of a renewed period of peaceful East-West co-existence are far-reaching. They call for a fresh approach to the position of the Jews in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union and, above all, they again affect Israel's foreign policy. A new outbreak of peaceful co-existence between East and West would again enable Israel to pursue a policy of cautious sitting on the fence. What would be the price of such a policy?



It may not be a simple policy but it is one that has its own rewards. One has but to consider what the effects would be in the Middle East if Israel could restore its 1947 balance of Soviet and American diplomatic goodwill. The Assembly, of course, will not make Israel Foreign Policy, but it will create a climate of World Jewish opinion which will have important consequences.

One has but to consider these to realise how much in the centre of the Geneva Assembly stands the great question mark of the Jewish attitude to the changes taking place in Soviet Russia. It overshadows all other issues.

*Jon Kimche.*



## ANGLO-JEWRY FOR EXPORT: PORTRAIT OR FAKE ?

As there is some historical connection between Mr. Oliver Cromwell and Anglo-Jewry, I hope I will be forgiven for recalling an old Cromwellian chestnut. "Paint me," the Protector told an obsequious portraitist, "with all my warts." But what Cromwell would have said had the painter invented warts to put into the picture is hardly a matter for conjecture; Cromwell could not suffer fakes.

These reflections are pertinent with regard to something called "Portrait of Anglo-Jewry," a choice sample of pushing propaganda parading as objective contemporary history, by Mr. H. Soref.

**Decline and Fall?** : Somewhat prudently, Mr. Soref has chosen to publish his piece in a little-known American-Jewish publication, *The Menorah Journal*, and there would be little point in commenting on it had it not been presented by the editor as an "honest and clarifying report" on current Jewish affairs in Britain.

What then is this clarifying picture of Anglo-Jewry presented for the benefit of Americans in the *Menorah Journal*?

In outline, it exhibits a patrician, staunchly religious company of Jewish Englishmen which has deteriorated through immigration from East Europe into an irreligious, plebian, Zionist-ridden community, lacking in true British patriotism and with loyalties attached "to political creeds remote from the life of the country of which we are citizens."

Mr. Soref, the *Menorah Journal* points out in a footnote, is London-born; therefore, we are expected to assume, he should know. The legend of Anglo-Jewry's "alien loyalties" was, I seem to recall, also peddled by Mosley and his followers, but Londoners in general remained unimpressed. More recently, and paradoxically, the charge was repeated in the *Daily Worker* and in East Europe by Communist apologists.

**Antedeluvianarianism** : But to be fair to Mr. Soref, he himself is furnished with a social attitude and set of values rather more antedeluvian than these.

Nostalgically, he looks back to the time when "leading Jewish families . . . were permitted by universal assent to direct the affairs of the community. A beneficent and efficient oligarchy, they shaped the pattern of Anglo-Jewish life until the second World War."

Strangely at odds with the 20th century—but those were the halcyon days ;

they are contrasted with a dismal picture of communal government in which certain undesirable elements have taken advantage of the absence of patriotic compatriots to "infiltrate" into the Board of Deputies, the elected representative body in Anglo-Jewry (although Soref abstains from mentioning it).

"Very early in the last war, in 1939," Mr. Soref writes, "when available men were severely depleted by the prior claims of national service and by evacuation from London, the Zionist Organisation infiltrated the Board . . . the newly-elected Board packed the committees with Zionist partisans."

Do you detect an unfortunate smear-technique, familiar in another context, in this paragraph? I would acquit Mr. Soref of deliberate malevolence. I believe that in his anxiety to stretch a point to fit his argument he has overreached himself. The trouble is that he overreaches too frequently, as justice compels me to show later.

**The Days of the Best People** : But for a moment, let us examine another weakness this author has paraded.

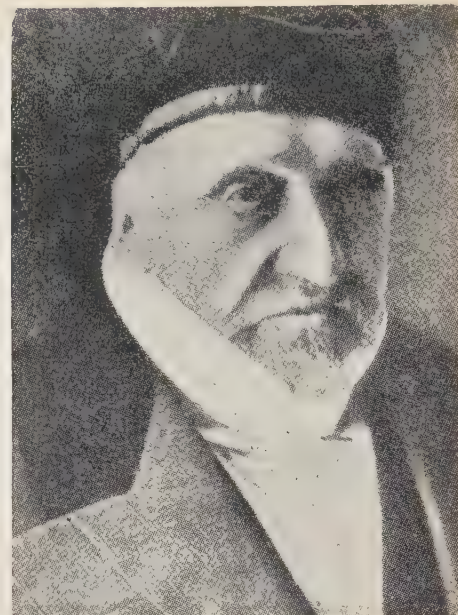
"The social scene was a glittering one," he writes gushingly. "The Rothschilds were among the most intimate friends of King Edward VII. The King not only attended the marriage of Leopold de Rothschild at the Central Synagogue, when he was seated between the bridegroom's two brothers, but signed the register and afterwards asked to be shown one of the scrolls of the Law."

On the Day of Atonement, he also stayed with Arthur Sassoon and "at intervals enquired how his host was fasting."

Still dazzled by the glitter of titles, despite his stern criticism of intermarriage, he boasts of the pedigree over which presides Levi Barent Cohen—the Princess of Wagram, the Duchess of Gramont, Countess of Crewe, Lady Battersea, Lady Coutts Lindsay, Baroness Weisweiller, Lord Rosebery and Lord Pirbright.

If most of these names mean nothing to you then clearly you have not been diligent in your study of the social register.

"As a tangible corollary," it is observed (due to intermarriage and the wavering religious loyalties of Jews of East European stock) "the Jewish peerage looks like becoming extinct. Of the twenty-three Jewish holders of hereditary



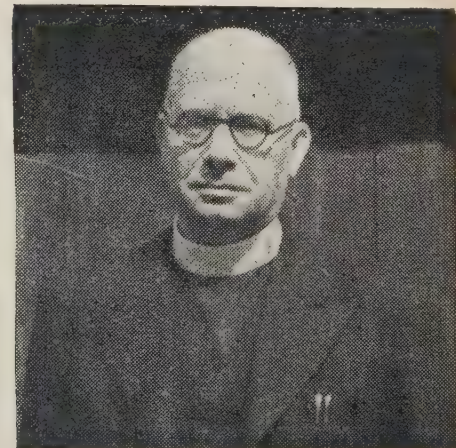
Board's President Sir Moses Montefiore—

titles at present, it is doubtful whether eight may be included in any Jewish reference book a generation hence."

**Socially Unacceptable** : Yet Mr. Soref is not altogether blinded by snob-values. When the occasion demands he can even introduce a title as a stick to beat an opponent, as when he records:

"A couple of weeks after marrying his princess bride in a Greek Orthodox Church . . . Professor Sir Lewis Namier of Manchester University, published a volume of essays entitled *Facing East*. In this work he—a former Political Secretary of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, and one-time Zionist leader—dismissed 'the jabber and the self-contradictory inane floundering of those intellectual Judaeo-centric assimilationists,' and argued that Zionism is 'the only sensible basis' for Jewish survival."

But on the whole, Mr. Soref concludes that *noblesse oblige* longer than *richesse*



—and successor Dr. A. Cohen.



in the field of communal leadership. To establish this he cites a list of family names such as the Cohens, Montefiores, Rothschilds, Montagus, Mocattas, Goldsmids, Franklins and Henriques (many of whose scions do, indeed, perform functions of value). But how does he describe the immensely effective and powerful financial and moral leadership of the foremost men in modern Anglo-Jewry?

**Whose Debased Ethics?** : The social life of the community, as a result of Zionist fund-raising has been "dominated by the new rich who, by virtue of their contributions, have acquired an inordinate influence in this sphere . . . they have sadly debased the ethics of philanthropy." Prudently here he lists no names.

Another smear? Perhaps; but certainly a churlish slur on the reputation of men whose generosity and service to succour the many thousands of Jewish refugees from Europe and elsewhere and assist them to make a new life in Israel, has shamed many of the traditional standards which Mr. Soref flaunts in our faces.

To call that "debasement of the ethics of philanthropy" is like a small boy scrawling nasty words in the street. Mr. Soref's words are longer, that's all.

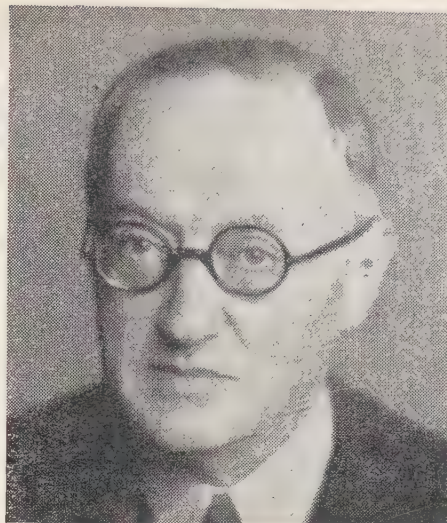
It should be stated for the record that none of the men in England who lead in organising aid for Israel are indifferent to Anglo-Jewry. But there is little neediness here. The days of the Jewish soup-kitchen and the welfare kosher restaurant subsidised by the English Jewish nobility are fortunately over. Growing prosperity and the Welfare State have quietly abolished Jewish charity, except in isolated cases for which adequate provision exists.

**Are Jews Patriots?** : The central core of Mr. Soref's complaint is manifestly that Jews in Britain are not patriotic Englishmen. For example, Jewish schools: "Whereas Jewish schools formerly tended to mould the children of the unassimilable into good Englishmen, these new foundations tend to turn young Englishmen into nationalistic Jews."

This theme is repeated in a number of variants. In one of them he complains: "There is, indeed, no dearth in England of Israeli colonials and salesmen."

The *Jewish Observer and Middle East Review* itself comes under critical attention. Its study, Mr. Soref says, "is a rewarding experience." We like to think so, too, but not in the same sense.

"To an English Jew," he says, "the very title of this egregious journal, with



Sir Lewis Namier.

the implied interchangeable relationship, is offensive."

**Which English Jew?** : The term "English Jew" must have for Mr. Soref a more restricted meaning than is apparent. Most of our English Jewish readers do not seem to have been so easily offended by our title.

But two Anglo-Jewish journals have met with the approval of Mr. Soref. One, we see in a footnote, accepts his contributions, so it becomes "the only one that matters—the major link in Anglo-Jewish life."

The other, now defunct, is the former organ of the Anglo-Jewish Association, *The Jewish Monthly*, which, coincidentally, was edited by Mr. Soref.

Self-advertisement? Perhaps, for nothing else can adequately explain the inflated description of so parochial a magazine as *The Jewish Monthly* as "unique in Jewish journalism." It boasts a list of names of eminent, mainly elderly, Jewish writers. But a similar list of names could be adduced in aid of the modest house-journal of the Federation of Jewish



The Hon. Ewen Montagu.

Youth Clubs, which I am sure has no pretensions.

Younger Jewish writers of talent either did not know of the existence of the *Jewish Monthly*, or would not waste their efforts on a journal with so painfully conscribed an attitude.

An egregious footnote here compares the losses of this unimportant little publication with those of *Commentary*, a journal which in spite of certain faults is the most influential serious Jewish monthly in the world.

**Poor Propaganda** : It is reasonably clear by now that the point of this "Portrait" is to make propaganda. For whom? The Anglo-Jewish Association, presented as the responsible body in Anglo-Jewry because of its high-mindedness, its patriotism and sense of service in contrast to the Zionist-ridden and, presumably, low-minded Board of Deputies.

To get this point across to American Jews, who are uninformed regarding the realities, the A.J.A. is given constant respectful mention and almost double the space is allocated to a description of it than is allowed to the Board. Although plenty of legitimate criticism could be levelled at the Board, Mr. Soref constantly overreaches himself and perpetrates a "smear" of the kind to which his article is prone.

The A.J.A. makes poor propaganda, however. It is a private association and of little consequence in the modern structure of society, being in fact a vestigial relic of the days of rank and privilege in Anglo-Jewry. During the past year the Association, which formerly was choosy of the kind of English Jews it admitted and reluctant to open its doors to East European immigrants and their sons, has announced that "membership of the Association is open to all Jews who accept as their guiding principle loyalty to their faith and to their country." This watering of the pure milk of Anglo-Jewry met with strangely little response; perhaps, not strangely after all.

**Revolt Against Snobbery** : There is, indeed, much to criticise in Anglo-Jewry: decay, philistinism, disordered values, intolerance. But no purpose is served by presenting partisan propaganda as truth, nor by parading snob-values as social values. In fact, much that is wrong is due precisely to the over-emphasis of the revolt against snobbery that swept Mr. Soref's friends into obscurity. If only they could have kept up with social change and Jewish history!

Emanuel Litvinoff.



## A TOUR OF THE NEGEV

By ALFRED JOACHIM FISCHER

In the sixty minutes which the plane travels from Lydda, Tel Aviv's airport, to the Red Sea port of Elath, one crosses the whole of the Negev desert.

Seen from the air, it offers a majestic and picturesque sight. It was only on our return by jeep that we felt the monotony which the speed of the air journey had hidden. One generally imagines the desert as an undulating sea of yellow sand. The face of the Negev, however, at least in the centre, is different. It is of stone and therefore looks even more forbidding and desolate. Rugged peaks crown many of the chalky hills.

**"Insignificant" Akaba:** The roads, including the so-called water road to the Dead Sea, have a luminous yellow colour. Dark spots in the stone catch our eye. "It contains iron," explains my neighbour, a geologist who is to carry out investigations near Elath.

Akaba comes into sight:—an insignificant Jordanian fishing village, surrounded by British military camps with huts of corrugated iron whose lights are clearly visible in Elath at night. Elath airport makes a completely improvised impression. One sees nothing but soldiers, among them the smart uniforms of the women's corps.

Before a military jeep takes us into the village we should consider for a moment what this desert, which all experts and commissions of earlier years condemned as hopeless and uncultivable,

means to Israel, its present owner. The Army of Liberation was no more willing to give up this sea of stone than it would have renounced Jerusalem. For its final conquest, costly and risky military actions were undertaken.

**The Strategic Triangle:** First of all, this triangle in southern Israel represents two-thirds of her territory. Elath is furthermore in a strategic position giving access, via the Red Sea, to the Indian Ocean. This makes Israel the only country in Asia which has access to both the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. Only the Egyptians in Africa, enjoy a similar position. Through the Negev runs the famous Araba Road which connects the Mediterranean with the Red Sea, like a territorial Suez Canal. It is believed that oil and other raw materials exist here in large quantities which would assure Israel's industrial future.

Last not least, if the Jewish State is to have a future it needs large reserves for settlement. In the Israeli view, once the Negev has been thoroughly explored, it will be able to absorb as many settlers as the Valley of Jezreel and the Jordan Valley. Before their exploitation, experts expressed themselves no less unfavourably.

For the moment, Elath by the Red Sea with its transparent waters and its multi-coloured sand which is used for glass production, looks rather like a

strange village, surrounded by hills. Everything seems half-finished, and the wooden houses and huts appear like something from a Western film. Yet marks of civilisation are already discernible, although in summer the heat reaches up to 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Where under the British mandate there was nothing but a police station, manifold institutions are now springing up, all of them with the prefix "experimental." I do not suppose that during its millenium of solitude this area ever dreamed of an experimental botanical garden. Another showpiece is the experimental fishing station. Even some fishing villages have been founded nearby where Italian experts from Tunis act as instructors.

**An Achilles' Heel:** The Bay of Akaba is one of the best fishing grounds anywhere. Already it is the main source of food supplies for Israel which is made doubly dependent on sea food by the lack of meat. Fishing is restricted to shallow waters, however, because deep-sea fishing cannot start until peace has been concluded with the neighbouring states.

Elath also has a military garrison, the precincts of which are barred to civilians. Strategically, the few miles of Israel-controlled coastal strip represents an Achilles' heel. Jordan's Akaba is only a few minutes from Elath. The distance from Egyptian territory in the West is hardly greater. It takes only an hour's walk to reach Saudi-Arabia though a definite border does not exist. At this, the corner where four countries impinge, one is forcefully reminded of the tense situation prevailing between Israel and her Arab neighbours.

**Solomon, Sheba and Optimism:** Ruins left over from ancient times lead to the conclusion that once upon a time, a lively and prosperous civilisation existed here.

At the present site of Elath the proud fleet of King Solomon set its sails, bringing back spices and incense from the land of the Queen of Sheba.

The great biblical king left yet another interesting monument of civilisation. An entire mining town was excavated on the site of Elath. On this spot, now called Etzion Gaver, were the King's copper mines and a large export harbour. Foundry lay next to foundry. Now new copper mines have been erected only a few miles from those of Solomon.

**Trouble Frontier:** Araba is something like an open border along the edge of the Negev, belonging to Israel and to the Kingdom of Jordan in almost equal



Old and New: Beduin Camels cross the new Sodom Road.



parts. According to the armistice agreement, the frontier is to run by the bottom of the valley, but in many places Jordanian territory is only 100 yards distant. It is obvious that a frontier which is nowhere clearly marked, portends danger. There is constant activity of Arab partisans, and especially the notorious opium smugglers who use the Negev as a clearing-house for the whole of the Middle East.

The solitude is often depressing on the 170 kilometre long connecting road between Elath and Sodom which was cursed already in the Bible. For hours on end not a sound is heard from the hills and mountains, among them the famous Edom mountains. On hot days—the summer is very long—the landscape with its uncanny shapes of stone and thick clouds of dust, looks as if it were boiling.

**The Copper Mine:** Human dwellings are seen from afar. On approaching a village one notices mountains of empty food tins glittering under the merciless glare of the sun.

Six watchmen guard the copper mine from a tent close by. The stone has a blue-green colour which, we are told, wearies the eye after a few hours. We are led into a flat, hollow tunnel where borings are carried on from morning till night. This is tiring work, for after every few inches a new specimen is taken, for the Geological Institute in Jerusalem.

One has to walk half an hour to reach the nearest water well. There are several of such inhospitable experimental stations. The guards—six men and a dog—are changed every 24 hours.

Compared to such isolated points, the real copper workers' camp at Beer-Ora is a lively spot, being inhabited by 120 people. At the entrance is the picture of three monkeys under which is written in Hebrew: "My eyes have seen nothing, my ears have heard nothing, and my lips have not spoken."

Such rigid silence is not observed by the managers, however, who have set up their offices in a caravan. We learn from them that 51 per cent of the whole enterprise is owned by the State. The scientific initiative came from the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot. Only three or four of the officials are experts, trained in Sweden and Germany.

**Students Among Workers:** Most of the workers have comfortable huts, some of which are nicely equipped with pictures, books and international journals which are always available in the communal library. Even foreign currency is



Miners' camp in the Negev.

released for the purchase or subscription of books.

Two young Rumanians tell me that they are waiting for an American scholarship which will enable them to return one day with far greater knowledge. Many working students come here to earn their college fees. A Bulgarian is preparing himself for his matriculation.

The 120 camp inmates have almost as many countries of origin. Orient, Western Europe and the Balkans are represented, with the balance inclining a little in favour of the Rumanian and Bulgarian element.

**English-Zionist Girls:** Six girls, two of them former members of a youth movement in England, are the only women in this lonely desert spot. They try to do the best they can with a small refrigerator and carry on a losing battle against the flies in summer. More women would improve the general morale in the opinion of the men, nearly all of them bachelors.

One inducement for people to work here is the high salary, augmented by a special Negev allowance of 25 per cent. Another important factor is the good food which is given free of charge and includes meat four or five times weekly. Every 25 working days are followed by five days' holiday with free travel including free flights to the North, sometimes by specially chartered planes.

Last but not least, the wide open spaces attract some people. The new immigrant need not squeeze into one room with four people, but has his hut to him-

self unless he chooses to share it with a colleague.

**Gadna's Contribution:** Another compensation of this life is the swimming pool built in Hollywood style on a small hill. Constructed jointly by the miners and the members of Gadna, it now benefits both alike. Gadna is a country-wide pre-military youth organisation which has its own camp at Beer-Ora. Every fortnight, two classes of 16 to 18 year-olds from different schools come to the Negev, where they receive physical training and theoretical instruction, including lectures on the specific conditions of the Negev. In addition, they help in building roads.

Above all, however, these boys and girls contribute a great deal, through agricultural experiments, to the correct evaluation of the possibilities of the Negev. The stones, plants and animals collected by the Gadna are considered by geologists as the most useful collection of their kind.

**Experimental Agriculture:** Various industrial experiments are being made along our route—with glass dust, magnesium and phosphate. Petroleum too is supposed to be present.

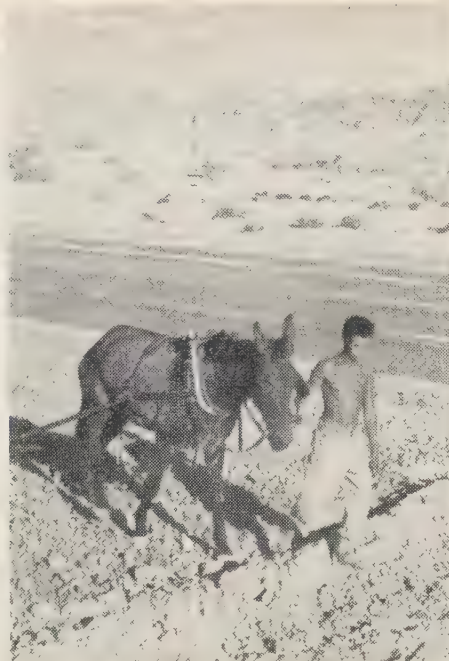
Even more interesting perhaps are the agricultural experimental stations which, as mentioned above, serve simultaneously as military camps. In one of these stations the trees grew up to about three feet and then suddenly withered. It is assumed that the roots struck a layer of salt but the matter is under further investigation. The salt content of



the scanty water supply varies greatly, so that in some places it suffices for irrigation while in others nothing would grow without deep borings. Rain water reservoirs are not much use because the total rainfall amounts to less than three inches yearly at the most (in Elath only one and a half inches, with 10 days of rain per year).

**Hydroponics :** Really amazing results were achieved by the use of hydroponics, and the huge tomatoes and cucumbers raised in such water tanks helped considerably to improve the diet at Beer-Ora. Experiments with cattle-breeding are still in their initial stages. The soil needs natural manure to produce food, and the animals need the food to live. This is a vicious circle which must first be broken. Elsewhere it is a question of afforestation and cultivation of the soil, but the soil of the Negev is sterile and must be created by laborious toil.

For a long time it was believed that the barrenness of the Negev landscape was due only to the primitive methods of the Bedouins whose camels and goats devoured everything green and left only a few very tall trees. Lately, however, another and no less dangerous pest has been discovered—swarms of birds which descend upon an area almost as frequently as locusts. Metal scarecrows are



*Turning desert into plough-land.*

now being brought into use to frighten them away.

**"Inexhaustible" Dead Sea :** In Sodom whose very name makes one shudder, the potash works have been reconstructed after being destroyed by the Arabs. The almost inexhaustible reserves

of the Dead Sea covered practically the entire bromide consumption of the British Empire during the war. The town itself has also been rebuilt.

Once the Bedouins used to come to this one-time oriental place with their horses and camels, but the era of the little cafe and sleepy bazaars is long finished. Beersheba has become a somewhat hectic Jewish town with East European character, with 10,000 inhabitants and an expanding industry. The only relics from days gone by are the typically Arabian parks, teeming with flowers but unshaded, and the beautiful mosque which is now a museum.

**The Future :** After Beersheba the road improves. This part of the Negev once populated by prosperous Philistines, has already been cultivated, and the eye once more enjoys the sight of cornfields.

Had there not been isolated Jewish settlements in this region, the entire Negev would have been lost to Israel. Out of this recognition the southern Negev is to be opened to large numbers of immigrants as quickly as possible. Optimists would like to see it populated in the same way as was done in the Jerusalem corridor after the war.

Before this is possible, however, a lot of research and sheer hard work will be necessary.



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# BOARD OF DEPUTIES

## RELIGION IN ISRAEL

Last Sunday's meeting of the Board of Deputies had before it two contentious issues. Alleged violations of the Jewish religion by the Israeli authorities and the question of who should go as a fraternal delegate to the World Jewish Congress at Geneva both roused the deputies.

Mr. Teff said in presenting the report of the *Erets Israel* Committee, that he had been asked to take some action in connection with projected Israeli legislation for the conscription of Jewish women for two years "for para-military purposes." As the legislation would probably come before the Knesset on Wednesday, Mr. Teff was summoning an emergency meeting of the *Erets Israel* Committee in the immediate future to consider the whole question.

**Pig-breeding and flying:** On the question of pig-breeding in Israel, which had been raised by Mr. N. J. Lobenstein, Mr. Teff stated that it now only took place in the Nazareth district. The matter was still under the consideration of the Israeli Government, who were fully aware of the feelings of Jews in other countries. The Government had been approached on this subject a short while ago, and, as no fresh factors had arisen, little purpose would be served by a fresh approach.

The *Erets Israel* Committee had also considered the objections raised by some people to the flying on the sabbath by the Israeli airline *El Al*. Correspondence had been received from *El Al*, explaining that the company faced utter ruin if a seven day service were not run; nevertheless great efforts were made to avoid the necessity of aeroplanes taking off or landing within the sabbatical limits. The matter was now before the Israeli rabinate and the British Chief Rabbi would be informed of developments.

**Reliable information wanted:** In the debate on the report of the *Erets Israel* Committee, Mr. Richtiger stated that little good was done by the inclusion in the report of exaggerated statements about Jewish children in Israeli missionary schools, to which they were supposed to be attracted by "better educational facilities," according to "information from a reliable source in Israel." Mr. Richtiger suggested that the committee should make a detailed investigation of the actual number of children in such schools; they would then find that the

matter had been exaggerated beyond all limits.

**Geneva delegate:** Most of the morning was taken up by a heated discussion about the sending of a fraternal delegate to the forthcoming meeting of the World Jewish Congress in Geneva. The discussion took place on the reports of the Executive, Foreign Affairs and Finance Committees. It was decided to send Dr. G. Warburg, who would be in Geneva representing the Board at United Nations meetings, as a fraternal delegate.

Mr. Janner, presenting the reports, stated that the Executive Committee had originally decided that two fraternal delegates, Alderman A. Moss, J.P., and Dr. Warburg should be sent. The Finance Committee, to whom the proposal had been referred, recommended that in view of the strained financial position, Dr. Warburg alone should represent the Board.

The Foreign Affairs Committee, in whose hands the matter had eventually been placed, decided by a narrow majority that an actual deputy, Mr. Elsley Zeitlyn should go to Geneva. (Alderman Moss having now intimated his inability to go.) Mr. Janner himself expressed no opinion on the matter and stated that he had abstained in the committee voting.

**Financial considerations:** Mr. B. B. Lieberman, chairman of the Finance Committee, said that his committee had practically unanimously come to the conclusion that it could not sanction the expenditure for sending one person specially over to Geneva; Dr. Warburg could easily extend the necessary few words of welcome. It would be making the task of the Finance Committee impossible if other enthusiastic committees imposed impossible tasks on it.

Mr. Percy Cohen, C.B.E., said in the debate that, after so much money had already been spent on foreign travel, the financial objections were petty; "People who have swallowed a camel are gaping at a gnat."

Mr. Neville Laski, Q.C., as past president of the Board, considered that if someone other than Dr. Warburg were to be sent out from England, it would be, difficult to justify the expense.

**Important delegations:** The reference back of the reports was then moved by Mr. H. Samuels and seconded by Mr. Goldstein.

Mr. L. Bakstansky, opposing the reference back, said that there was no per-

sonal objection to Dr. Warburg. The important fact was that the forthcoming World Jewish Congress assembly would consist of a gathering of very important Jewish leaders (an important Israeli Minister would be addressing the gathering) and that this was not the sort of issue on which to raise financial matters.

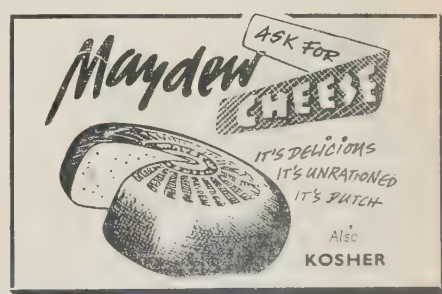
The reference back was carried by 62 votes to 47. Mr. Lieberman then moved an emergency resolution recommending the nomination of Dr. Warburg as a fraternal delegate. This was carried with three dissentients.

**Austria and Germany:** Mr. Barnett Janner announced that negotiations on Jewish claims against Austria would be resumed on the 15th September. The legal position of the present Austrian Government was not analogous to that of the German, and there was no question of reparations. Although hardly any progress had yet been made, Mr. Janner's personal impression was that a speedy settlement would nevertheless be reached.

With regard to individual claims for compensation and restitution, it seemed that Austrians at present resident outside Austria would not be discriminated against.

Speaking on Germany, Mr. Janner said that representatives of the Claims Conference had made certain concessions in connection with the Bill on restitution and compensation at present before the German Upper House, in order to facilitate its passage before the dissolution of the present Parliament.

**Education survey:** Mrs. Janner presented the report of the Education Committee. A recent survey had elicited the information that, out of an estimated 25,000 Jewish children in the Greater London area, just over 3,000 were provided with some sort of withdrawal classes during religious instruction periods. Many parents, said Mrs. Janner, did not trouble to exercise their right of withdrawing their children.





# JEWISH AFFAIRS

## ZIONIST FEDERATION SOCIETY REPORTS

**Leeds:** A large audience attended the film show arranged jointly by the Leeds (Agudat Hazionim) Zionist Association and the New Leeds Zionist Society at Zion House. The programme consisted of four films—*Tent City*, *My Brother and I*, *Hope of the Huleh* and *Tuft of Grass*—depicting various aspects of life in Israel.

A programme of activities for the autumn, including lectures and further film shows was announced.

**Memorial Meeting:** At a memorial meeting to the late Morris Silman, at the Communal Hall of the New Synagogue, Leeds, representatives of all sections of the community joined with relatives and friends to pay tribute to his memory. The meeting was arranged under the joint auspices of the Leeds Zionist Council, the Leeds Jewish Representative Council and the United Hebrew Congregation.

Mr. Barnett Janner, M.P., President of the Zionist Federation, delivered the Memorial Address, recalling the outstanding personality and character of the

late Mr. Silman, who had modestly assumed a full burden of communal responsibility, and brought to its service a deeply-rooted background of Jewish tradition and scholarship. His faith in Zionism at a time when it was not fully accepted and, later, during the difficult days of the movement proved an inspiration to all who knew him. Mr. Janner concluded. The Memorial Prayer was intoned by Rabbi J. Apfel.

**Wembley and District Z.S.:** A slight increase in membership, active participation in the Wembley J.P.A. campaign, the continued promotion of Modern Hebrew classes and the formation of a young Zionist society affiliated to the Federation of Zionist Youth were reported by Miss B. J. Barwell (re-elected chairman of the society) at the recent Annual General Meeting. Outstanding in the year's cultural functions had been the society's first public-relations meeting in the form of an Anglo-Israel Friendship Evening, attended by both the local M.P.'s and representatives of the Borough Council and the United Nations Association. A resolution limiting consecutive tenure of any office to two years was adopted.

The Israeli film *Tent City* was then shown.

**Bournemouth:** "Current International Developments in Relation to Israel" was the subject of an address recently given by Mr. Woolf Perry to a joint meeting of the Bournemouth Zionist Council and the Bournemouth and District Jewish Community Centre.

After analysing the Dulles-Stassen report Mr. Perry said that the new American Administration undoubtedly had a less friendly approach to the problem of Israel. Nor did American Jewry seem to be able to exert the positive influence that such a situation demanded.

As far as Britain was concerned, the statesmanlike approach made by Sir Winston Churchill could well form the basis for future agreement.

**Importance of Education:** In Anglo-Jewry there were signs that responsible quarters were losing sight of the duty to educate youth to the concept of one Jewish people. The curriculum of such Jewish education as was being given, with few exceptions, had received little or no impact from the establishment of the Jewish State. Zionists should realise their responsibility to ensure that the

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education given to youth was related to today's new situation. Hebrew, the vital link between the Yishuv and Diaspora Jewry, must be taught as a living language and contemporary Jewish history must be introduced into the curriculum so as to impress the spirit of Israel on children growing up in the Diaspora.

**Marylebone:** Questions on Israel were answered at a recent meeting of the Jewish Society by Mr. M. Arnon, Press Attaché to the Israel Embassy. He said that the low standard of living of the many immigrants from Oriental countries was one of the most serious problems confronting the State. Peace with the Arab countries would be ensured when Israel had become economically sound, he concluded.

**Correction:** The name of the co-chairman of the St. John's Wood and Maida Vale Zionist Society should have been reported as Dr. J. Jackson, and not Dr. J. Joelson as stated in our issue of July 3.

## TEMKIN IN REVERSE

### REPORT ON U.K. VISIT

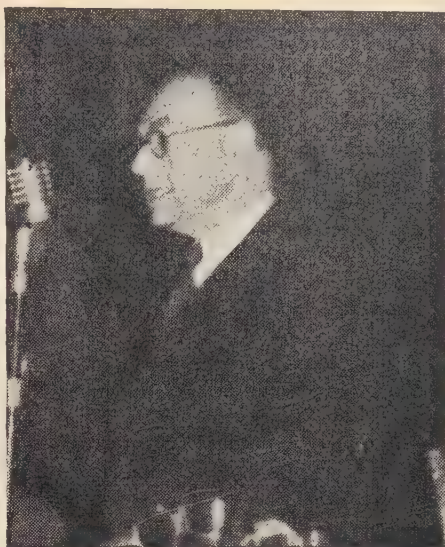
A report on his recent visit to Great Britain was given by Mr. S. Temkin, Director of the Israel Office of the Zionist Federation, to the Jerusalem Branch of the Association of Immigrants from Great Britain.

Anglo-Jewish groups, most of whom did not appear to be connected with any Zionist Movement, showed much enthusiasm for Israel's achievements, he said. There were hundreds of non-technical applicants wishing to emigrate to Israel but no machinery existed to give the practical advice necessary, he added.

The recent reduction in the number of applicants was partly due to dissatisfaction following immigrants' return to England. A project was urgently needed to harness the capital of settlers with moderate means, Mr. Temkin said. He suggested a Butlin type of camp at Shavey Zion.

**Three New Hostels:** On British immigrants' accommodation in Israel Mr. Temkin said well equipped hostels in the three main cities for professional people had been established by the Jewish Agency Absorption Department.

A limited number of permanent two-roomed housing units would be established for new or recent immigrants, including temporary workers, the speaker added. Substantial mortgages would be available bringing the initial payments



Mr. S. Temkin—"practical advice needed for non-technical applicants."

within the means of most settlers from the west.

A controversial discussion followed, in which the following points were made:

- ¶ Prospective immigrants should be given medical advice on which of Israel's various climates would suit them best.
- ¶ Cheap housing should be available for all immigrants who had arrived since the establishment of the State.
- ¶ The bad influence on *Aliya* of dissatisfied returnees from Israel should not be neglected by the Jewish Agency.
- ¶ British immigrants in their housing problems had suffered from lack of water, roads and electricity, but had overcome them and remained in the country.
- ¶ Any proposed development project to attract settlers with small capital should not neglect Jerusalem. The city also needed a hostel for families.
- ¶ The sum of £5,500 per unit allocated by the authorities for the housing of Western immigrants was insufficient to provide a reasonable standard, especially in Jerusalem, where climatic conditions demanded higher building standards.
- ¶ The Association of Immigrants from Great Britain should dissociate itself from any projects where standards were unsuitable for Western immigrants.

## AGENCY EXECUTIVE

### U.S. ZIONISM DISCUSSED

Preparations for the first completely representative assembly of American Zionists are afoot in the U.S., a Jewish Agency spokesman told the press in Jerusalem last week. It is thought that this may herald a new spirit of unity among Zionist Parties there.

The spokesman was reviewing the major problems discussed at the recent plenary session of the Agency Executive.

The Agency Executive agreed on the necessity of giving non-Zionist forces greater representation in Israel without weakening the Zionist movement proper.

**"Double Shekel" Criticised:** The privilege held by Israel electors to the Zionist Congress—known as the "double shekel"—entitling them to a double vote, was subjected to criticism by several members of the Executive.

While no member advocated abolition of the parties within the Zionist organization, it was felt that the Constitution

(Continued over, col. 2)

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 29th July

**Y.P.C.—NORTH LONDON**, 120 Bethune Road, N.16. S. W. Gold, Esq., on: "Israel and Anglo-Jewish Youth". 8.15 p.m.

(Continued from previous page)

should be revised before the 1954 Congress to clarify the position of non-party Zionists.

The Executive decided to press for an increase of W.I.Z.O. representation on the Agency Executive itself, and in the Zionist General Council. W.I.Z.O. has been denied a full number of delegates because many of its members also belonged to political parties within the Zionist movement.

**Refuses Comment:** The spokesman refused to comment on the Agency official who was recently obliged to resign after he had "exceeded his authority."

The first number of *Hazut*, a periodical containing *belles-lettres* and material for the Zionist ideological conference due to be held in December, has been published by the Agency information services. Appearing in Hebrew and English, this 200-page anthology contains essays by scholars from Israel and abroad.

The Agency's education department remains without a head, Mr. Z. Shazar not yet having acceded to the general request that he fill the post left vacant since the death of Mr. H. Greenberg in March. Mr. Shazar will attend the World Jewish Congress meeting in Geneva next month on behalf of the Agency.

## CALENDAR

(Times given are British Summer Time)  
Sabbath begins Friday, July 24 at 8.0 p.m.  
Readings from Pentateuch  
Deuteronomy iii.23-vii.11  
Readings from Prophets Isaiah xl.1-26  
Sabbath ends Saturday, July 25, at 9.50 p.m.  
Festival of Ab Monday, July 27.

## VOICE OF ZION

All times are British Summer Time.  
Wavelength 33.3m.

Sunday, 26th July

9.15 p.m. Newsreel. 9.30 p.m. Personal Column, Walter Eytan. 9.35 p.m. "Around the Settlements": Kfar Ha-Nasi celebrates its fifth anniversary.

Monday, 27th July

9.15 p.m. Newsreel, Agricultural Review. 9.30 p.m. "The Economic Front": A weekly feature presented by Avner Hovne. 9.45 p.m. "Folk Music" arranged by Marc Lavri.

Tuesday, 28th July

9.15 p.m. Newsreel. 9.30 p.m. Kol Zion Choir. 9.45 p.m. "The Week's News," summarised by Jack Alexander.

Wednesday, 29th July

9.15 p.m. Newsreel. 9.30 p.m. "Zionist Review": Arthur Superc. 9.45 p.m. "Jewish Composers in America" (fifth programme).

Thursday, 30th July

9.15 p.m. Newsreel. 9.30 p.m. Names in the News. 9.35 p.m. Your Record Requests.

Friday, 31st July

9.15 p.m. Shabbat Ekev: Readings and Legends, News. 9.30 p.m. "Israel and the Diaspora": Dr. James Parkes. 9.45 p.m. Frank Pelleg presents: Max Brod.

Saturday, 1st August

9.15 p.m. Shavua Tov: News, Programme Highlights, Songs by Issachar Meron. 9.30 p.m. "The Week in the Knesset." 9.45 p.m. Melaveh Malkah: Religious songs arranged by Nehemiah Vinaver.



## NATIONAL KOL NIDRE APPEAL FOR ISRAEL

### The Chief Rabbi's Call:

*The Chief Rabbi appeals to all Congregations throughout the country to make arrangements to have an appeal from the pulpit for Israel on Yom Kippur after Kol Nidre.*

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# JPA-JNF NEWS

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## CHIEF RABBI ON ISRAEL'S POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS STRESSES

### PLEA FOR TOLERANCE AT HENDON MEETING

A striking plea for a more tolerant attitude among Jews of this country towards political controversies in Israel was made last week by the Chief Rabbi at a crowded meeting of members of the Hendon Jewish community. Rabbi Brodie was addressing a gathering at the Sol Cohen Memorial Hall for the purpose of furthering the local contribution to this year's J.P.A. campaign. He was introduced by Mr. I. J. Pomson, warden of the Hendon Synagogue.

**Spiritual base:** Speaking of his impressions after his recent visit—his fifteenth to Israel, Rabbi Brodie frankly laid before his hearers the political and religious stresses characterising life in the Jewish State. What gave him greatest satisfaction was the spiritual potentialities of every man and woman residing there. He believed for this reason that the time would soon come when the conflict between the religious and the

secular would be healed. In his view this would arrive by the laying of Israel's foundations upon a firm spiritual base.

The new State had many friends in the world, he went on; but its most loyal ally would always be the Jewish people scattered throughout the world, and the time had come for an expression of that loyalty as never before.

**Mounting total:** Mr. Harry Miller, chairman of the local J.P.A. Committee, thanked the Chief Rabbi for his most informative and descriptive address, and made an appeal that realised £1,200. This brings Hendon's result to date to almost £9,000, more than half-way towards the target sum of £15,000.

The proceedings were rounded off by the Rev. L. H. Hardman, Minister of the Synagogue, who reinforced the plea of the guest of honour that all should help Israel in this critical phase of her development.

## NATIONAL FUNDS AND THE 5-YEAR AGRICULTURAL PLAN

Nearly £15 million was invested by the Keren Hayesod during the six months period ending March 1953 in agricultural settlements. This represents almost one-half of the total expenditure of the Fund for this period. Other large expenditures were for housing, integration of immigrants and the repayment of long-term loans.

This was revealed in a report recently made public by the head office of the Keren Hayesod and Jewish Agency in Jerusalem. The statement further points out that agricultural settlement is a field particularly lending itself to long-term planning in Israel, and is almost completely financed through national capital, i.e. the Keren Hayesod and the Jewish National Fund. Current expenditures are made to conform with a 5-year agricultural plan that is expected to make a projected population of two million self-sufficient in its principal foodstuffs by 1957.

**SOUTH OF TEL AVIV:** the water-front at Jaffa, now integrated with Israel's first all-Jewish city, is one of the liveliest points on the country's long coast-line. Mushrooming in growth, Jaffa has made a unique contribution to the problem of absorbing Israel's new population—a problem tackled by the Jewish Agency, out of funds partly supplied by the J.P.A., with imagination and skill. Jaffa is the place in Israel to visit for its market-stalls piled high with local vegetable produce, for an object lesson in how to make immigrants to a new land contented and prosperous, and for the sight of a graceful minaret, dating from the days of Palestine under the Sultans. See story on page 22.



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## JPA-JNF NEWS

JAFFA—ANCIENT  
AND MODERN

If you had lived through years of struggle in the twin cities of Tel-Aviv and Jaffa, and had heard for many months the incessant fire that Iraqi and Syrian mercenaries were hurling at the southern outskirts of the city, you would understand the exhilarating feeling of men of the Haganah, ceremoniously entering into the surrendered city of Jaffa. The soldiers knew that they were doing away with a dangerous threat to the heart of Israel, that they were putting an end to a 40 years old rivalry and were releasing a considerable force for vital

## TREES IN ERETZ ISRAEL

## Manchester.

30 trees in memory of Maurice Jacobs who passed away on February 7th, by his loving wife, daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren.

24 trees in the name of Terence Black on the occasion of his Barmitzvah by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Black. 30th May.

20 trees in the names of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Green on the occasion of their 20th Anniversary by their parents. Mr. and Mrs. D. Berkovitch. 20th November, 1952.

20 trees in the name of Sarah Brandt in appreciation of her loyalty and devotion to the Cause of Wizo by the Manchester Daughters of Zion. 15th December, 1952.

15 trees in the name of R. Ray Wigoder by Philip I. Wigoder to mark the occasion her appointment as a Justice of the Peace in the City of Manchester. 10th September, 1952.

13 trees in the name of Yisrael Ivor Lunzer by the Manchester Mizrahi Women's Organisation on the occasion of his Barmitzvah. 7th March.

13 trees in the name of Harvey Demmy on the occasion of his Barmitzvah by the Manchester Daughters of Zion in appreciation of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Demmy's services to Wizo. 16th May.

13 trees in the name of Stephen Howard Rudd on the occasion of his Barmitzvah by the Manchester Daughters of Zion. 27th June.

12 trees in the name of Barry Freedman on the occasion of his 16th Birthday by his parents. 22nd October, 1952.

12 tree in the names of Stella Moscoe and Hans Keble on the occasion of their Marriage, by their parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Moscoe. 14th June.

## Southend.

50 saplings in the names of Charles Ellman and Evelyn Crystal on the occasion of their Engagement by their parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Ellman and Mr. and Mrs. H. Crystal. 1st March.

25 saplings in the names of Lily and Phil Stanley on the occasion of their Silver Wedding. 20th May.

military operations elsewhere. Little did they know then that their conquest meant an immediate solution to the most pressing immigration absorption problem of the infant State.

On the day of the Declaration of Independence there were seven immigrant camps in Israel, holding about 7,000 new immigrants. Then thousands began arriving daily, but there was no room in the existing camps. The war raged all over the extended frontiers of the country and the field army needed all the camp installations. Yet the immigrants kept coming in.

The Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency saw its first great opportunity. Jaffa, taken by the Israel army, was all but empty. True, most of its houses had been damaged in the fighting, some beyond repair. But many were repairable, and although most of them had no modern sanitation and washing installations, these could soon be built. So the Jewish Agency got together all the manpower available to repair the damaged homes. Water and electricity were brought to entire districts, old medieval buildings renovated. The Keren Hayesod provided millions of pounds for this huge housebuilding effort.

**Transformation:** As the carpenters and masons completed their work, thousands of immigrants poured into the houses of Jaffa. Many were reluctant to move into what they described as "that Arab town," but soon they realised that here was a great opportunity as, street after street, Jaffa grew into a Jewish city.

Jaffa was the first immigrant town. A substantial proportion of the Bulgarian Jewish community, numbering about 35,000 in all, settled in the Jaffa suburbs. Newcomers from Poland and Hungary settled in the city-centre as immigrants from Turkey swarmed to the northern sections. Soon, signposts were appearing in many European languages, side by side with the Hebrew inscriptions. There were distinct Polish, Bulgarian, Rumanian and Turkish streets with a few ex-servicemen, mostly disabled, settling among the newcomers. Then the rush began for the shops in the main streets, but the proprietors had very little basic capital, and their shops were practically empty. The population too, had little money to buy the goods. This changed as the barriers between Jaffa and Tel Aviv began to disappear and more and more Tel Avivians started

## GOLDEN BOOK

## London.

The Bethnal Green District Ladies' Guild, in appreciation of their services to Israel and the local Jewish Community, by the Bethnal Green J.P.A. Committee. 31st May.

Norman Gilbey on the occasion of his Barmitzvah, by his grandfather Sam Gilbey with love and affection. 9th May. Leeds.

Louis and Fanny Harrison on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding. 22nd June.

## Liverpool.

Fay Graff and Harry Louis Bellman on the occasion of their Marriage, by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Graff. 23rd July.

## Manchester.

Alderman Abraham Moss, M.A., J.P., and Mrs. Doris Moss Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Manchester by the Higher Broughton Hebrew Congregation on the occasion of their formal visit to the Synagogue. 11th July.

Anita Fink and Sol Lee on the occasion of their Marriage at the Higher Broughton Synagogue, by their parents. 25th June.

coming to Jaffa on business. Government institutions established offices there, as well as large private firms.

**Shops to Disabled:** The Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency saw in this an opportunity of solving the difficult problem resulting from the arrival of hundreds of disabled persons from the European concentration camps. Jaffa's shops and stands were the answer. The Agency received the sole concession for licensing businesses, and issued them to those unable otherwise to earn a living.

Another large group of social cases were taught trades and given workshops and instruments, to provide the growing population with the necessary artisan services. Soon doctors, pharmacists, lawyers, all found their way to Jaffa. New immigrants with qualifications saw that here were many opportunities open to them.

It did not take long for Jaffa to develop as an integral part of Tel-Aviv. The first big fair-ground, Luna Park, was established by newcomers and ex-servicemen. The whole of Southern Israel found a great field of activity here, with cinemas and theatres. You can hear on Jerusalem Boulevard, Jaffa, the same Yiddish plays that you come across on Broadway.

Rubble and dirt soon disappeared, and foreign embassies, Legations and Consulates started moving into some of the

(Continued on page 23)



# JPA-JNF NEWS

## CORONATION FOREST NEWS

### HAMPSTEAD DIVISION

A meeting at which representatives from almost all Jewish communal bodies and organisations in Hampstead were present, took place recently in the local synagogue hall in order to hear the Hon. Roger Nathan discuss the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Forest. Mr. Nathan is honorary secretary of the national Forest Committee. The Rev. I. Levy also spoke, and Counc. E. Snowman, J.P., Mayor of Hampstead, presided.

Measures for the stimulation in Hampstead of activities for the project were agreed upon, and during the course of the evening Mrs. A. Freeman, treasurer of the Hampstead Synagogue Ladies Guild, presented a cheque to the Mayor or trees to be planted on behalf of that organisation. Thanks to the speakers were expressed by the Rev. Boyars.

## CAMPAIGN FIGURES —LATEST

Total subscriptions to this year's J.P.A. campaign now exceed £1,075,000, from nearly 10,000 contributors.

The next step in the national fund—mobilisation is the Kol Nidrei Appeal, in mid-September. Preparations are well in hand for a maximum effort on the occasion of the Jewish New Year, with synagogues throughout the country acting in spiritual solidarity with the Yishuv and Jews everywhere.

### JAFFA—from page 22

fashionable villas in the residential area. Israel's leading painters moved into the picturesque old city, as old as the history of ancient Israel.

**Hebrew dominates:** Only two years ago, the street scene in Jaffa was predominantly foreign. The children spoke a score of different languages, mostly Ladino and Yiddish. But now this has changed. Hebrew dominates the scene in Jaffa, just as it dominates the rest of Israel, and those who have not mastered the language feel they must do so to be really at home.

The pulse of the new immigration beats in Jaffa. Many of the immigrant associations and mutual aid societies are centred here. Today it is a thriving city, part and parcel of greater Jaffa-Tel-Aviv, the largest population-centre in Israel. And many have already forgotten the days when snipers from the Manshieh Mosque minaret made pedestrians rush for shelter or take crossings at the double.

*A K.H. Feature by E. Laserson.*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 29th July

**NORTH LONDON Division, Queen Elizabeth Coronation Forest Aid Committee, South Tottenham Hebrew Congregation Section.** Whist Drive at the Louis Bard Hall, rear of 111, Crowland Road, N.15. Admission 2s. 6d. inclusive of refreshments. Commences 7.30 p.m.

## PASSING OF VETERAN GLASGOW PIONEER

It is with profound regret that we report the death of Mr. Abraham Links, one of the best-known figures of Glasgow Jewry and long a great source of strength to the Zionist movement in Scotland.

Mr. Links was connected with our movement in Glasgow for some fifty years, was a former vice-president of the Glasgow Zionist Organisation and was a founder and past chairman of the local commission of the Jewish National Fund. He was also prominently associated with many other communal ventures in the city.

In the course of his public life, Mr. Links, who founded the well-known wholesaling firm bearing his name, was a member of the Council of the Scottish Branch of the Wholesale Textile Association, and an active supporter of the Scottish Wholesale and Retail Drapers' Benevolent Fund.

A telegram of condolence has been sent to the family by the president of the Jewish National Fund, Mr. Sigmund Gestetner; while at the last meeting of the J.N.F. Administrative Committee, which took place on the very day of Mr. Links' passing, the sad occasion was marked by a minute's silence.

We offer our condolences to Mrs. Links, as well as to Mr. Maurice Links, who for five years led the successful Blue and White committee in Glasgow, and to all the family.

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